THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. You are the second questioner. You are not the first questioner... (*Interruptions*) You are the second questioner..... (*Interruptions*) Yes, Mr. Duggal.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: It is unfair for the Chair..... (*Interruptions*) I represent one and two and I have ..... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No.....(*Interruptions*) Please, sit down..... (*Interruptions*) Let others also speak in the House.

SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Madam, at the end of every Five Year Plan, an assessment is made of the targets achieved and of failures. I would like the Minister to State if such an exercise has been undertaken in respect of the Ninth Plan and, if so, what the main findings are?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: An exercise has been undertaken and I must inform the hon. Member that execution of these Command Area Development Programmes is in the hands of the State Governments. The State Governments are to execute the projects. We provide 50 per cent funds and the State Governments provide 50 per cent funds. So, execution of these projects is in the hands of the State Governments. If they do not execute the projects quickly as per the time schedule, then it will be certainly unwise on our part to pressurise them or to, say, withdraw the project. It will be unwise on our part but in every Five Year Plan, this exercise had been undertaken and as per the findings, these results have emerged and all the steps are being taken to hasten the execution of these projects. The Planning Commission has also restructured the scheme and limited the number of projects. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, only 16 new projects have been included. No more projects have been included, only 16 projects have been included.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Q.No. 206..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Please allow the second question.....(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. Don't ask questions. It is all over ..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Please .... (*Interruptions*) I am saying, that is the ruling.

Stake in Sudani Oil Field

*206. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a sfact that India is in the midst of buying a 25 per cent stake in Sudani oil field;

(b) if so, the efforts so far made in this regard;

(c) whether diplomatic efforts have made any headway; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) On 18.6.2002 Government accorded approval for the participation of ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), in the Greater Nile Oil Project (GNOP) in Sudan. Subsequently, OVL signed the Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA) with Talisman Energy Inc., Canada on 30.10.2002 for buying its 25% stake in the GNOP, subject to consent from the Government of Sudan as well as waiver of pre-emption rights held by the consortium members namely, China National Petroleum Company (CNPC) and Petronas, the National Oil companies of China and Malaysia, respectively. The above process involves integrated efforts of OVL and Central Ministries, including the Ministry of External Affairs. These efforts continue.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No ruling... (*Interruptions*) Q. No. 206 ..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Why are you fighting with the Chair?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He always does it.... (*Interruptions*) This is his habit to take out Rule Book ..... (*Interruptions*) Please sit down.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: He has got a right to put two questions. It is your own ruling....(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Now my ruling is, it is overruled...(*interruptions*) I have allowed enough..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: It is a ruling...(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a ruling of the Chair. Now, this Chair does not allow.... (*Interruptions*) Sit down. Now, this will be the final rule... (*Interruptions*) I am not bound by that rule... (*Interruptions*) Do not waste the time of the Question Hour.....(*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Now, Madam, I put the question No. 206...(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Unnecessarily, you want to take....(*Interruptions*) Please, sit down.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: I can bring to your notice the ruling.....(*Interruptions*) Madam, you cannot cast aspersions on me...(*Interruptions*) I am governed by the rules and you are also governed by the rules..... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Madam, from the statement placed before the House, it is seen that subsequent to the agreement dated 18.6.2002, OVL signed the purchase and sale agreement with Talisman Energy Inc., Canada on 30.10.2002 for buying its 25 per cent stake in the ONGC. What will be the impact of this on our contract? How do we propose to tackle the situation?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Madam, after signing the contract, the next step is like this. The three companies, particularly, the Chinese National Company and the Malaysian Company, have the pre-emption rights. So, we have approached them, and we are in negotiation with them. So, as soon as the pre-emption rights issue is resolved, further action will be taken in this matter. For that, the Ministry of External Affairs is also assisting us, and I hope that it would be done, as quickly as possible.

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Madam, the OVL sale agreement with Talisaman Energy Corporation, Canada dated 30.10.2002 will be subject to the consent from the Government of Sudan. How have the Government of Sudan given its consent? It is also subject to the consent and reaction of the China National Petroleum Company and Petronas, the National Oil Companies of China and Malaysia. What is their reaction? The statement before the House further states that the above process involves integrated efforts of OVL and Central Ministries, including the Ministry of External Affairs. What is the reaction and what have we achieved?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Madam, the Government of Sudan have appreciated and welcomed our decision to have 25 per cent stake in the Talisman Energy. So far as China and Malaysia are concerned, we are in discussion with them, and the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Finance are also assisting us. There is an agreement called the Bilateral Investment Promotion Agreement. It has to be executed

between India and Sudan so that the foreign investments are protected. That is also in the final stage, and that also would be done. From that point of view, we are proceeding in the right direction in the requisite speed. It is expected that all these things should be completed by 28th February, 2003.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Madam, this is a very major stake that OVL has taken in a concession in Sudan. We all know that the internal situation in Sudan has caused great anxiety in many parts of the world. I only want to know from the hon. Minister whether before deciding to go into Sudan, the detailed risk reward analysis for this participation was conducted or not. Secondly, have the consent of the Sudanese Government had the consent of other companies, the companies that have a pre-emption right, been obtained. If not, was there any urgency in hastening to sign the agreement? Because, if it is going to be department on the consent of the other companies and the Government, why did we not obtain these clearances in advance? That is the specific question.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Madam, after the agreement is signed, then only the issue of pre-emption starts. So, it has to be done accordingly. Unless the agreement is signed, you cannot say whether you will agree to that or not. So, this is the practice which is being followed. All risks have been ev luated properly, and that only, a conscious decision has been taken. Let me clear, because some difficulties or anexieties have been expressed by the hon'ble Member. Sudan is a friendly country. In 1956, their elections were held by us. Now, the IMF and he UN had earlier imposed sanctions, through the sanctions have been lifted, and as of now, in addition to China and Malaysia, countries like Switzerland, Russia, Kuwait and France are also working in oil fields. So, now, the earlier perception has changed, and changed considerably, and, even the USA have started better diplomatic relations with them. So, those concerns that existed some three or four years back, do not exist now... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: All is not well in Sudan; will the Minister, please, let us know if it is true that the insurance companies have enlarged their premium on account of the heightened risk perception?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Theinformation of the han'ble member is not correct.

श्री संजय निरुपम: उपसभापति महोदया, मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि सूडान के ऑयल फील्ड में जो 25 प्रतिशत का ऑफस्टेक लिया है उसके लिए कितनी पूंजी लगाई है।

नम्बर-एक। दूसरी बात, ओ.एन.जी.सी. विदेश आपकी फ्रंट कम्पनी है फॉरेन इंवेस्टमेंट के लिए, तो यह जो पूंजी लगी है। क्या यह ओ.एन.जी.सी. विदेश की अपनी पूंजी है या ओ.एन.जी.सी. की पूंजी है। नम्बर-2 और ....(व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : एक ही सवाल पूछिए। जवाब तो देने दीजिए। He will forget the question by the time you end.

श्री राम नाईक: महोदया, पहली बात तो यह है कि कितनी पूंजी लगाई है। उस प्रोजेक्ट में 25 परसेंट के लिए 720 मिलियन यू.एस. डॉलर यानी तीन हजार छः सौ करोड़ रुपए है और यह ओ.एन.जी.सी. विदेश सब्सडरी कम्पनी है। तो इसके लिए जो फंड लगेंगे वह ओ.एन.जी.सी. के होंगे-ओ.एन.जी.सी. सपोर्टेड। एक बात मैं कह दूं कि इसके बारे में कोई केन्द्र सरकार वित्तीय सहायता लेने नहीं जा रहा है। ONGC will be generating their own funds. There will be no difficulty in the generation of funds where we are getting 25 per cent. It is as good as Malaysia. I feel, from their point of view, we will be getting about 30 lakh metric tonnes per year, and that is a big purchase so far as we are concerned.

Preferential Allotments by Companies

*207. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies which have made preferential allotments on private placement basis and the amount of capital so raised by them since August 1994 to 31st March, 1999 and since 1st April, 1999 to 30th June, 2002.

(b) the names of the companies which have made preferential allotments on a consideration other than cash; and

(c) the details of companies which have made preferential allotment by swapping of shares?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Companies can make preferential allotment by passing a Special Resolution of shareholders under section 81(1A) of the Companies Act, 1956 and in compliance with conditions imposed by